OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY

CENDEP NEWSLETTER

March 2021

Centre for Development and Emergency Practice

Welcome to the Newsletter:

Disruptions marked our past year. The pandemic made it impossible to fulfil our plans, research had to be redirected, travel put on hold, students felt stuck and face-to-face meetings and teaching went online. The year of the pandemic has shown how existing inequalities have, despite the pandemic affecting us all, hit differently. Now more than ever, a focus on inequality and injustice in crisis settings continues to be important along with questions of how to create positive change in a situation of adversity. CENDEP is contributing to these discussions through research and teaching. We come together in the 19th Oxford Human Rights Festival with the theme **Disruption**: the agenda includes injustices and inequalities experienced across the world, and also celebrates the potential of coming together in the context of crisis and of collective mobilisation. The festival is online and thanks to the brilliant coordination of El Laskar and a committee of over 20 students from CENDEP and across the university, an impressive programme has been published.

The impacts of the pandemic are shown in our research in multiple ways, Susannah Webb and Charles Parrack along with colleagues in CARE International UK, Catholic Relief Services and others discussed Health and Shelter; Supriya Akerkar discusses experiences of the pandemic on people living in institutions in a special issue of the Journal of Human Rights Practice. Additionally, Martina Adamcikova leads in developing a new module for preparing students for working in crisis settings, a challenge that has become more pronounced in the pandemic. In addition, you can read about CENDEP's work under the leadership of Aparna Maladkar to develop expertise on visualising research data; Lisa Handley and Richard Carver's work on assessing the effectiveness of national preventive mechanisms; and Zoe Jordan's work on the latest outcomes of our Education to Employment project.

Cathrine Brun
CENDEP Director

What's new at CENDEP?

- Latest news from MA HAP and MA DEP
- Student Profile: Reo Morimitsu (MA DEP)
- The 19th Oxford Human Rights Festival 2021
- Human rights practice in the age of COVID
- Understanding effective torture prevention
- The River of Life Exhibition
- 'Draw your own conclusions' blog series: Visualisations in academic research
- Publications

Online Discussion+Q&A, Wednesday 17 March 6.30pm - 7.30pm (GMT) part of 19th Oxford Human Rights Festival 2021

Image designed by Lucie Dick (Year 2 Masters of Architecture) and Victoria Greenwood (DEP)

Write for CENDEP blog and newsletter

Email your contributions to **cendep@brookes.ac.uk**
State the year you were studying at CENDEP and the course you have completed.
Feel free to write to us in case you would like to first discuss a relevant topic for publication.

19th Oxford Human Rights Festival 2021

The 19th Oxford Human Rights Festival runs online this year from 11 March - 1 April. Under the theme of 'Disruption' we have over 17 events that include voices from the UK, caste systems in India, LGBTQ rights in Poland, human rights in Iran and Turkey, youth in Lebanon, lives in Palestinian in refugee camps, a documentary following the Mayor of Ramallah on the West Bank, and refugees of Cox's Bazar.

Over the last year, students across our city were no longer allowed to freely move around campuses. 'Is Anybody Listening?!' is an event on the 23 March that will bring together academic research and students to discuss the impact on education and students' well-being.

Our first series of 25 minutes podcasts, called 'We need you', has been produced by two post graduates. Focused on misinformation, guests have included Belinda Goldsmith, Editor-in-Chief of Thomson Reuters; Josie Naughton, the CEO of Choose Love; and Esther Stanford-Xosei, Advocate of Extinction Rebellion. The last podcast will be recorded live on the 17 March with guest, Dr Richard Carver.

This year's Nabeel Hamdi Lecture has been incorporated into the festival. Nabeel Hamdi will be in conversation with Hans Skotte about his practice, his academic work and his broader life experience. The event will be held on the 12 March.

On 11 March we launch our online exhibition space. We showcase 'Rohingya Refugees document their lives', a series of photographs taken by Rohingya Refugees. We will also host video messages from the photographers sent especially for the festival. On the same day we launch 'Right to Roam', an interactive walking tour of Oxford that invites users to learn about Human Rights through Oxford's history.

We look forward to welcoming you to our online space.

Booking for all events: https://www.oxfordhumanrightsfestival.net/events--booking.html

Elizabeth A Laskar
Co-Ordinator Oxford Human Rights Festival

News from MA HAP

As for many other programmes, Covid-19 has affected our learners, some of whom were directly managing Covid-related programmes in the field, or were locked down in remote locations. After making necessary adjustments to assure good learning conditions and the well-being of our learners, the HAP programme team decided to introduce Covid-related cutting-edge issues for peacebuilding and humanitarian practices in the curriculum, investigating the links between pandemic and conflict, and the existing common responses. This flexibility is highly valued by our HAP learners, which can transform challenging work experiences into fascinating learning opportunities. .

Contact person: **Brigitte Piquard**
bpiquard@brookes.ac.uk

News from MA DEP

The MA DEP course for 2020-21 adapted its teaching and learning methods in the light of the ongoing Covid-19 challenges. Several modules for the first semester were taught face-to-face and synchronously online. Other modules developed pre-recorded lectures for students to listen to, and followed with online discussions.
This diverse delivery of the course has worked very well and we have had an excellent positive feedback about teaching and learning quality from our students taking the course. In the light of the lockdown in the UK, we have further adapted the delivery of our second semester modules to online sessions, with modules also developing pre-recorded lectures, online workshop style group discussions and debates. Tutors have been available to the students for individual online consultations and discussions. In addition to these teaching and learning methods, students have organised online fun activity meetings.

MA DEP students are very much leading the 19th Oxford Human Rights Festival to be held online this year. We are very thankful to the students and the staff for their continued support and cooperation in delivering a high-quality MA DEP course in these extraordinary Covid-19 times.

Contact person: **Supriya Akerkar**
sakerkar@brookes.ac.uk

Meet a Student:

Reo Morimitsu, CENDEP Alumni (MA DEP)

My postgraduate education at CENDEP has been spectacular! Unlike other programmes regarding humanitarian studies, the course has a strong focus on the link between academic knowledge and practice. This helped me define the humanitarian work that I had been doing for years and cultivated my professional foundation to better contribute to alleviating human suffering with new insights. The learning environment was also great. I was lucky to be in such a warm, inclusive and multi-cultural atmosphere, which shaped me to see myself as a global citizen. And of course, Oxford is one of the best places to dive into the international community!

Understanding effective torture prevention

In 2019, CENDEP's Lisa Handley and Richard Carver were commissioned to evaluate the performance and impact of the national preventive mechanism (NPM) in Georgia, in the South Caucasus. NPMs are set up under the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture as a way of monitoring state compliance. Their primary function is to visit prisons, police cells and other places where people may be at risk of ill-treatment. They also advocate for more effective anti-torture measures.

In order to make this assessment, Lisa and Richard drew on the findings of their 2016 study, Does Torture Prevention Work? Using the lessons of this earlier research, and field research in Georgia, they have published "Evaluating National Preventive Mechanisms: A Conceptual Model" in the Journal of Human Rights Practice.

Lisa Handley and Richard Carver

Human rights practice in the age of COVID

The pandemic of the past year has disrupted the practice of human rights, just as it has disrupted everything else. At the same time, human rights offer guidance on how to respond to the pandemic. CENDEP's Richard Carver, who is co-editor of the Journal of Human Rights Practice, edited a special feature in the journal on the contribution of human rights to understanding COVID-19 (https://academic.oup.com/jhrp/issue/12/2).

Among the contributors was Supriya Akerkar of CENDEP, who wrote on the importance of affirming radical equality in relation to the human rights of older people and people with disabilities in the pandemic. Paul Gready wrote on the local responses in York, the first Human Rights City in the UK. Alicia Ely Yamin wrote on the opportunities presented by COVID-19 to undertake a radical rethinking of the right to health. Eda Seyhan argued that human rights activists should focus on the dangerous new powers governments acquired in their response to the pandemic, which András Kádár provided a case study of exactly this phenomenon in Hungary. Lukas Muntingh surveyed the experience of Africa's prisons, concluding that there are no easy ways of protecting inmates from COVID-19.

As a systematic body of law, human rights are a helpful way to approach the balance between necessary restrictions to tackle the coronavirus and fundamental civil liberties. The right to health itself provides a useful way of evaluating governments' performance. Countries with an effective public health system and social safety net have tended to perform best in protecting their populations.

Richard Carver
Reader in Human Rights and Governance

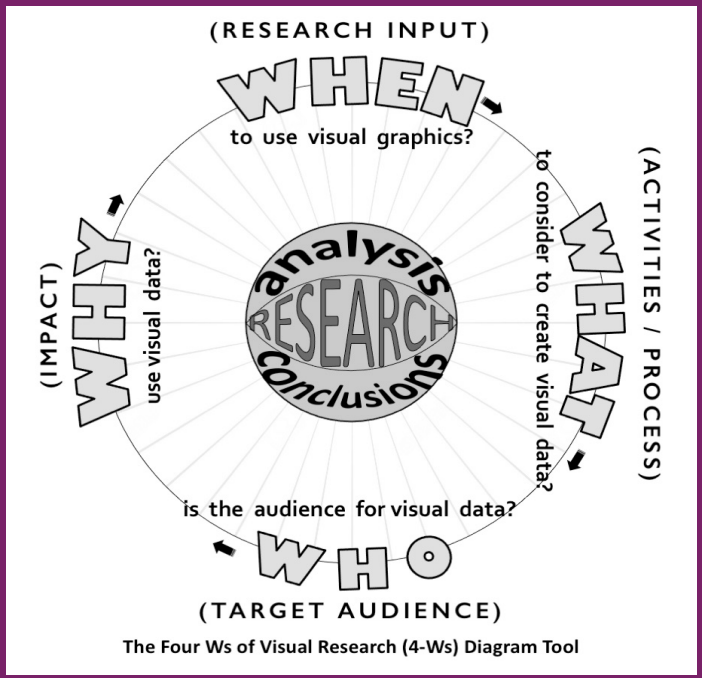
'Draw Your Own Conclusions' blog series: Visualisations in academic research

Data visualisation or visual research is a useful and powerful tool, and to understand its use and importance for academic research, CENDEP has started a six-part blog series 'Draw Your Own Conclusions' (DYOC Series). The series will consider some key questions including what are the added benefits of visual research; how successfully has it been applied; are specialised qualifications or tools necessary. The DYOC Series will aim to answer questions by looking at the history of visual research, successful and failed case studies, its impacts and the powerful emotions they convey to create effective diagrams.

CENDEP focuses on bringing together a diverse audience including academics, development practitioners, stakeholders and policy makers to develop its research, and with a variety of data and evidence, it becomes imperative that the diverse audience is able to appreciate and comprehend several sets and types of data and its outcomes to ensure effective collaboration and coordination.

The first DYOC blog 'Introduction and history of visual research', has been published which reflects on how to commence with the process of data visualisation, followed by analysing some successful historical case studies and its impact as data storytelling. I discuss the 'Four W's of Visual Research' (4-Ws) diagram tool, which I created to assist in better understanding the need and the process for creating visual data. The four key questions, 'When, What, Who, Why' will be discussed in the upcoming separate blogs; the questions will assist in creating impactful and effective outcomes, which could prove crucial for the success of a diagram.

Aparna Maladkar
Post Graduate Research Assistant



The Four Ws of Visual Research (4-Ws) Diagram Tool

The River of Life Exhibition

We are pleased to invite you to the opening of the "River of Life Exhibition", a physical and virtual visualisation curated by artist Dana Barqawi. The exhibition is accompanied by discussions between young people living in Jordan and Lebanon and artists, filmmakers and directors led by 'From Education to Employment' project co-leader Dr Oroub El-Abed.

The exhibition is part of the 'From Education to Employment' project, which explores the impact of legal status on young people's trajectories in contexts of long-term displacement. In such contexts, young people's trajectories are diverse, multifaceted, and multidirectional. The exhibition seeks to capture young people's representations and understanding of their trajectories from education to employment, taking into consideration their pasts, presents, and hoped-for futures.

Working with 15 young Jordanians, Syrians, and Palestinians living in Amman, Dr El-Abed and researchers in Jordan have worked with young people to produce intricate representations of their pathways within changing and challenging contexts and personal realities.

The exhibition runs from the 20th – 30th March. All events are free, and will be live-streamed via the Centre for Lebanese Studies' Facebook page.

Zoe Jordan
Associate Lecturer, Postdoctoral Researcher

Publications

- Richard Carver (2020), "Human Rights Practice in the Age of Pandemic," Journal of Human Rights Practice, Vol. 12, No 2

- Brun, C. and M. Shuayb (2020) **Exceptional and Futureless Humanitarian Education of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon: Prospects for Shifting the Lens**. Refuge36(2): 20 – 30

- Richard Carver and Lisa Handley (2020), "**Evaluating National Preventive Mechanisms: A Conceptual Model**," Journal of Human Rights Practice, Vol 12, No 2

- Richard Carver and Lisa Handley (2020), "**Effective torture prevention**," in Malcom D. Evans and Jens Modvig (eds), Research Handbook on Torture, (Cheltenham: Edward Elgar)

- Emma Weinstein Sheffield, Richard Carver, Bill Flinn, and Billy Molosoni (2021), "**What does 'protection' really mean in shelter self-recovery programming?**" Roadmap for Research, Interaction

- Richard Carver, Lisa Handley, and Sam Ponniah (2021), "**Political Representation of Small Minorities and the International Normative Framework: Lessons from India and other Districted Electoral Systems**," Addis Ababa University Law School, Alternative Approaches to Ethno-Cultural Diversity Management at Sub-National Levels: Ethiopia in Comparative Perspective, Conference, 13 March 2021.

Meet our staff

- Martina Adamcikova, *Associate Lecturer*
- Supriya Akerkar, *Senior Lecturer and DEP Programme Coordinator*
- Jeni Burnell, *Research Associate*
- Cathrine Brun, *CENDEP Director*
- Richard Carver, *Senior Lecturer*
- Ian Davis, *Visiting Professor*
- Anita H Fabos, *Associate Lecturer*
- Maria Faraone, *Senior Lecturer*
- Elisa Ferrato, *Associate Lecturer*
- Simon Fisher, *Associate Lecturer*
- Bill Flinn, *Associate Lecturer*
- Nabeel Hamdi, *Emeritus Professor*
- Lisa Handley, *Visiting Research Academic*
- Louise Harris, *Visiting Research Academic*
- Zoe Jordan, *Associate Lecturer, Postdoctoral Researcher*
- Melissa Kinnear, *Associate Lecturer*
- Paul Knox-Clarke, *Associate Lecturer*
- EL Laskar, *Festival Co-ordinator*
- Anna Lindley, *Visiting Fellow*
- Aparna Maladkar, *Research Assistant*
- Charles Parrack, *Subject Coordinator Shelter after Disaster*
- Brigitte Piquard, *Reader in Humanitarian Action and Conflict*
- Lucy Heaven Taylor, *Associate Lecturer*
- Caroline Tindale, *Programme Administrator*
- Hala Caroline Abou Zaki, *Postdoctoral Researcher*
- Sue Webb, *Postgraduate Researcher*
- Sherin Alshaikhahmed, *PhD Student*
- Fatima Hashmi, *PhD Student*
- Grace Khawam, *PhD Student*
- Kate McAuliff, *PhD Student*
- Oscar Natividad Puig, *PhD Student*
- Aleyda Valdes, *PhD Student*
- Tobias Vokuhl, *PhD Student*

Read our CENDEP Blog

Find information and insights about our research on development and emergency practice, teaching activities and latest news by CENDEP students, staff and associates, at **http://cendep.blogspot.co.uk/**

Contact us

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